

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are presently pending in this case, Claim 5 having been amended by way of the present Amendment.

In response to the Election of Species requirement dated May 8, 2006, the Applicants provisionally elect with traverse the species of Group II, Species 1 shown in Figure 1, and Species a shown in Figure 3, and identify Claims 2-5 as readable on the provisionally elected species.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the election requirement based on MPEP § 803, which states:

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

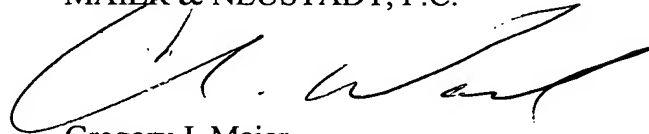
The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding Election requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

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Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single species be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-10 be conducted.

Respectfully Submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. J. Maier', written over the printed name of Gregory J. Maier.

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